Message Text

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R 291330Z AUG 78 FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7371

UNCLAS BUJUMBURA 1032

EO 11652: NA TAGS: AMGT, BY

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER

- 1. WITH THE BEGINNING OF THE AID PROGRAM HERE AND THE ASSIGNMENT OF A PAO WE BELIEVE IT IS NECESSARY TO ASSIGN GSO TO BURUNDI. THIS REQUEST HAS BEEN LONG OUTSTANDING AND WAS SUPPORTED BY INSPECTORS DURING INSPECTION TWO YEARS AGO. CONDITIONS NOTED THEN WARRANTING ASSIGNMENT OF GSO WILL BE CONSIDERABLY MORE INTENSE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
- 2. AID PRESENTLY HAS A SECOND STAFF MEMBER ASSIGNED WITH FOUR MORE PROGRAMMED FOR THIS AND THE COMING FISCAL YEAR. THIS BUILD-UP IS BEGINNING TO PUT A STRAIN ON OUR ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES AND WITHOUT THE ADDITION OF AN AMERICAN WHO CAN DEVOTE FULL TIME TO GENERAL SERVICE WORK, THE POST WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SUPPLY THE SERVICES BOTH THE OFFICES AND PERSONNEL REQUIRE IN AN ISOLATED CITY SUCH AS BUJUMBURA WITH ITS PRIMITIVE COMMERCIAL SERVICES. IN ADDITION, THE ASSIGNMENT OF A PAO PRESAGES A MORE ACTIVE ICA PROGRAM WITH CONCOMITANT SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS.
- 2. THE POST HAS REDUCED OUR OPERATING BUDGET SIGNIFICANTLY AND LET GO FSL'S WHO CONTRIBUTED LITTLE TO THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION. AFTER TRYING DIFFERENT COMBINATIONS, HOWEVER, WE HAVE COME TO CONCLUSION WE CANNOT DEVELOP NECESSARY SUPERVISORY SKILLS AMONG FSL'S TO OBVIATE NEED FOR AMERICAN UNCLASSIFIED

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GSO. WE EXPECT THIS SITUATION TO DETERIORATE FURTHER NEXT YEAR. CLASS B CASHIER HAS NOTIFIED US SHE EXPECTS TO LEAVE BURUNDI. OUR PRESENT CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT HAS SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS. IF THINGS DEVELOP AS WE EXPECT, WE PLAN SHIFT LATTER TO CASHIER JOB. THIS WILL LEAVE US WITH NO COMPETENT LOCAL SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL IN GSO SECTION, AND WE HAVE LITTLE HOPE OF LOCATING NEW COMPETENT LOCAL PERSONNEL.

3. GROWING AID AND USICA OPERATIONS ARE ALSO ADDING TO WORKLOAD OF US EMPLOYEES WHO IN PAST HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SUPPORT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER. HERETOFORE, CRO HAS BEEN ABLE TO SERVE AS GSO PART-TIME WITH THE DCM'S SECRATARY BACKING HIM UP IN COMMUNICATIONS. WITH THE INCREASE IN AID AND MULTI-SECTION TRAFFIC THE CRO NO LONGER

HAS THIS FLEXIBILITY. IN ADDITION, OVER PAST YEAR VACANCIES IN THE SECOND SECRETARY SLOT HAVE MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE PROVIDE CRO WITH CONSISTENT BACK UP.

4. IN VIEW OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS POST REQUESTS THAT DEPARTMENT ADD GSO POSITION TO BUJUMBURA STAFFING PATTERN AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

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